United Nations S/2013/123

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2013

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), by which the Council requested me to submit regular reports every 90 days on the implementation of that resolution, including on the restoration of and respect for constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, as well as the humanitarian situation in the country. It covers major developments since my previous report of 27 November 2012 (S/2012/887), and my report of 11 January 2013 (S/2013/26), which was submitted pursuant to resolution 2030 (2011) on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (UNIOGBIS).

II. Restoration of and respect for constitutional order

A. Political situation

2. There was no significant progress towards implementation of resolution 2048 (2012) during the reporting period. National stakeholders remained divided on the transitional arrangements and on how to achieve the full restoration of constitutional order in the country. The military continued to interfere in politics, and international partners are yet to agree on the assessment on the ground.

1. Overview of the political situation in the country

3. The continuing stagnation notwithstanding, the period under review was generally characterized by a climate of relative political compromise. The mandate of the National Assembly was extended until the swearing-in of newly elected parliamentarians, the date of which remains uncertain; a new Speaker of the National Assembly was elected; and an all-party parliamentary commission was established by the National Assembly to review the political transition pact and the political agreement signed by the military junta and 17 political parties in May 2012. Since its establishment, the Parliamentary Commission has held consultations with the 37 registered political parties and civil society, including women and youth organizations. Although the defence and security forces have been invited to participate in the consultations, they have not done so.

13-24081 (E) 280213

Please recycle

4. At its meetings of 12 and 13 January, the Central Committee of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), which remains the majority political party in the parliament, endorsed a proposal by the PAIGC Political Bureau for the party to sign the political transition act and the political agreement. The Central Committee also agreed to convene an ordinary congress of PAIGC in May 2013 to elect a new leader of the party. The former Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), Domingos Simões Pereira, and the former Minister of Public Administration and Civil Service in the Government deposed by the coup d'état of 12 April 2012, Aristides Ocante da Silva, have officially announced their candidatures.

5. On 17 January, PAIGC and its political allies — the Democratic Alliance, the Democratic Convergence Party, the New Democracy Party, and the United Social Democratic Party, which is not represented in the parliament — signed the political transition pact and the political agreement. On that occasion, the PAIGC spokesperson reiterated the party's determination to work with all actors, indicating that the signing of the documents demonstrated the commitment of PAIGC to national interests. He stressed the need to promote inclusive dialogue and create a broad-based Government emanating from the parliament. He also underscored the need for enhanced dialogue among the international partners of Guinea-Bissau and for harmonization of their efforts, as well as for dialogue between PAIGC and the de facto authorities.

6. Following those developments, the Transitional President, Serifo Nhamadjo, expressed satisfaction that the transition was being consolidated and called upon political actors and members of civil society to work together to devise a realistic transitional agenda outlining the country's short-term, medium-term and long-term priorities.

7. On 4 February, the Party for Social Renewal (PRS), the second-largest party in the parliament, shared with international partners in Bissau a note on its consultations with political parties, civil society, religious organizations and traditional leaders early in December 2012. In that note, it was proposed that local elections should be held before general elections and that the decisions to have a proportional electoral system and to confer overall responsibility for elections to the National Electoral Commission should be revisited. In addition, the note underscored the need for a national political agenda for the transition to be submitted for parliamentary approval. It also included a proposal that the transition be extended by 18 months until November 2014.

8. On 7 February, at the request of PAIGC, UNIOGBIS convened a meeting with international partners for PAIGC to provide its assessment of the continuing transition and the way forward. The party expressed concern that some national stakeholders, including PRS, were holding parallel meetings instead of supporting the work of the Parliamentary Commission. In addition, it proposed that the transitional period should be extended for six months until November 2013, as opposed to the 18 months proposed by PRS. Lastly, it warned that it would not cooperate with the de facto authorities if they failed to include PAIGC members in the Transitional Government or to take account of its proposal on the extension of the transitional period.

2. Overview of the human rights situation in the country

9. During the period under review, there were continuing concerns over human rights violations, especially with regard to extrajudicial killings and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and movement. Some opposition political leaders and civil society members remained in hiding in embassies or in neighbouring countries over fears for their personal safety. In addition, the ban on demonstrations imposed by the military junta following the coup d'état continued to be enforced.

10. On 7 February, the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League launched its report on the human rights situation in the country for the period 2010-2012. In his speech on that occasion, the president of the League underscored that it was important for the parliament to adopt a plan for the restoration of constitutional order within one year. The report recommended the creation of an international court to investigate and bring to justice those responsible for political assassinations owing to the manifest incapacity of the national authorities; amendment of the Constitution to allow for the independence of the Office of the Prosecutor General from the executive branch; and the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a step towards combating impunity in Guinea-Bissau and promoting access to justice.

11. On 24 January, the Office of the Prosecutor General expressed to UNIOGBIS the need to synchronize the various branches of the criminal justice system, to train members of the military courts and to review legislation on the armed forces.

12. Conditions of inmates in prisons and detention centres throughout the country remained difficult. Many prisoners continued to face arbitrary and illegal detentions beyond the period established by law, which included no access to legal counsel, no family visits and limited access to food, potable water and medical care. In an effort to tackle the situation and improve coordination among relevant partners, the Ministry of Justice agreed on 23 January to establish an interdisciplinary committee, comprising representatives of the relevant national authorities, members of civil society and international partners, to support prisons and detention centres.

13. Early in January, the Military Court formally charged the 17 detainees accused of involvement in the incidents in the area of the Bissalanca air force base in Bissau on 21 October 2012. They were charged with crimes against State security and with staging an attack on a military installation. Their detention conditions fell short of international standards.

14. The former Minister of Finance, José Mário Vaz, who fled the country after the coup d'état of 12 April 2012, was arrested at his home in Calequisse, Cacheu region, on 4 February. He had just returned from Lisbon. On 6 February, during a visit by UNIOGBIS to the office of the Judiciary Police where he was being held, Mr. Vaz informed UNIOGBIS that he believed that his arrest was politically motivated. He also reported that he was being well treated and had been allowed access to independent legal counsel. He was brought before a judge on 8 February and released. His hearing continued on 11 February, but no decision was taken on whether he would face charges. The Office of the Public Prosecutor has requested him to surrender his passport and to inform it if he intends to be absent from his residence for more than five days.

15. On 7 February, two of the four prosecutors who were part of a commission established within the Office of the Prosecutor General to investigate financial crimes were replaced. No official reason was given for their removal.

16. In its 2013 Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders, a media watchdog group, reported that the ranking of Guinea-Bissau had fallen from the 75th to the 92nd position because of the imposition of what it termed "military censorship" on the media.

3. Efforts at the regional and international levels towards the restoration of and respect for constitutional order

17. Following its extraordinary session, held on 19 January in Abidjan, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) welcomed the accession of all political parties in Guinea-Bissau to the transitional pact and expressed its commitment to accompanying Guinea-Bissau in accomplishing the tasks of the transitional process, including the conduct of urgent multi-sectoral reforms and the holding of inclusive, free, fair and transparent elections in the course of the transition. It directed the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all appropriate measures to expedite action on the commencement of the implementation of the Defence and Security Sector Reform Programme. It also reiterated its call to the African Union to urgently consider the recognition of the ongoing transition and the lifting of sanctions against Guinea-Bissau. It urged the United Nations, CPLP, the European Union and other international partners to resume cooperation with Guinea-Bissau and to support efforts aimed at ensuring a more inclusive transition in the country.

18. At a consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, held in Addis Ababa on 26 January on the margins of the African Union summit, senior representatives of the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations agreed that the report of their joint assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau, which took place from 16 to 21 December 2012, should be submitted to the relevant organs of their respective organizations in order to promote convergence in their appreciation of the progress made and to enhance prospects for coordinated contributions to the resolution of the crisis in Guinea-Bissau.

4. Efforts towards a democratic electoral process

19. On 19 January, the Transitional President confirmed to the press in Abidjan that presidential and legislative elections would not take place at the end of April 2013, as envisaged in the transition political pact, owing to financial, technical and organizational constraints. Preparations for the elections are, however, continuing. The Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Commission informed UNIOGBIS on 29 January that the teams conducting the electoral boundary delimitation exercise had completed their tasks, but that the cartographers had repeatedly gone on strike over unpaid arrears and were withholding all the data. He indicated that approximately $95,000 (CFAF 47 million) of a total estimated budget of $216,000 (CFAF 107 million) was required to complete the electoral boundary delimitation exercise. He also said that, following the announcement of a new date for the elections by the Transitional President, the Commission would prepare a new electoral timetable. On 30 January, the Director General of the Electoral Process Support Office advised UNIOGBIS that the Office was continuing its planning for

biometric voter registration. Meanwhile, the presidency of the Commission remains vacant following the resignation of the incumbent in December 2012 owing to disagreements among the political parties who had signed the transition political pact over his nomination to the post by PAIGC and his election by the parliament.

B. Security situation

20. During the period under review, the overall internal security situation was stable, but remained volatile. Military and police checkpoints remained in place on the outskirts of Bissau and elsewhere, with reports of acts of extortion being committed against the population at the checkpoints. The Public Order Police and the National Guard implemented joint patrols and increased traffic controls at night aimed at stemming the rising crime rate in Bissau. New telephone lines were also installed in all Public Order Police stations in Bissau to ensure access by the population in case of emergency.

21. During its above-mentioned extraordinary session, the ECOWAS Authority approved the creation of a reserve force of 140 troops to enhance support to the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau. The Mission's authorized strength currently stands at 677 police, military and logistical support personnel.

22. On 30 January, the Transitional President indicated that Guinea-Bissau would no longer contribute troops to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali owing to financial constraints.

III. Socioeconomic and humanitarian situation

23. According to the Director General of Budget of the Ministry of Finance, the country received approximately CFAF 11.9 billion (some $22.9 million) in 2012 from bilateral and multilateral partners in the subregion, which included $7.2 million from the West African Economic and Monetary Union, $2.7 million from ECOWAS and $13 million from Nigeria. The funds reportedly assisted the State in paying civil servants' salaries.

24. There was a noticeable decline in the outbreak of cholera in the country. The cholera epidemic peaked in November 2012 with 1,513 cases and fell to 467 and 133 cases in December 2012 and January 2013, respectively. The Epidemic Control Committee under the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other key non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations working in the field of water and sanitation implemented cholera prevention and response collaborative initiatives, which successfully curbed the spread of the epidemic. According to the latest bulletin, issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity on 17 January, 3,492 cholera cases (including 23 deaths) have been recorded since the outbreak of the epidemic in August 2012. Some 86 per cent of the cases occurred in Bissau.

IV. Observations

25. I am concerned about the lack of meaningful progress towards the restoration of and respect for constitutional order in accordance with resolution 2048 (2012).

The political developments in the parliament notwithstanding, the military continues to interfere in political affairs. The signing by PAIGC of the transition political pact and the political agreement was encouraging. I hope that this development will culminate in the formulation of a new transitional regime pact and a transition road map containing a realistic time frame, including for the holding of legislative and presidential elections. I call upon national stakeholders to remain committed to achieving this objective.

26. If Guinea-Bissau is to break the vicious cycle of political and military instability, there must be fundamental changes in the way in which politics is conducted and in how reforms, especially in the defence, security and justice sectors, are implemented. To garner support both nationally and internationally, such reforms should be initiated and implemented by a constitutionally elected Government.

27. Tackling the causes of impunity, which has afflicted Guinea-Bissau for most of its history, should be part of a medium-term to long-term reform programme. I am concerned that, to date, no meaningful steps have been taken with regard to investigations and prosecutions into past assassinations, especially those of March and June 2009. I am also concerned that no investigation has been opened into the killings linked to the military incidents of 21 October 2012 and its aftermath. I call upon the de facto authorities to urgently initiate credible and transparent investigations into these incidents in accordance with international standards.

28. I have taken note of the technical preparations being made by the de facto authorities for the holding of presidential and legislative elections. To avert future discord, it is important that voter registration be conducted expeditiously and in a fully participatory and transparent manner, on the basis of modalities agreed upon by all stakeholders concerned. A successful democratic electoral process also depends on the political, security and social environment within which elections take place. The process will need to be inclusive and will require consensus, compromise and the commitment of all stakeholders. The country will also need international support for the holding of the elections. In this regard, the finalization of a consensual, transparent and realistic electoral timetable will be crucial.

29. It is important that women's initiatives for peacebuilding be encouraged and specific measures be taken to ensure women's full participation in the transition, including in dialogue initiatives and in the establishment of transitional arrangements. It is also important to ensure the participation of women in electoral and legal reform processes and bodies. This would contribute to an inclusive political process and ensure compliance with the principle of non-discrimination.

30. I welcome the efforts of the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS and the European Union to harmonize their positions around a shared vision aimed at ensuring unity of purpose and joint action in assisting Guinea-Bissau in the restoration of and respect for constitutional order. My new Special Representative, José Ramos-Horta, will continue to promote enhanced coordination among these organizations.

31. There is a critical need to further support the implementation of United Nations programmes in the fields of health, water and sanitation, education, nutrition and food security to reduce the vulnerability of the population to deficiencies in these areas. I call upon donors to provide funding for these important sectors.

32. In April, I will submit recommendations to the Security Council with regard to the mandate of UNIOGBIS, as requested by the Council in resolution 2092 (2013). I am also expected to report on the implementation of resolution 2048 (2012) in May. In that regard, I would recommend that the two reports be merged into a single report to be submitted in April. I would also recommend that the Council consider changing the reporting cycle stipulated in resolution 2048 (2012) to every six months instead of every 90 days. This will allow for a more streamlined and consolidated report that will provide the Council with information on the progress made in the implementation of the UNIOGBIS mandate and in the restoration and respect for constitutional order in the country.

33. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my new Special Representative, José Ramos-Horta, and the entire United Nations country team, in addition to members of the broader international community and national and international non-governmental organizations, for their contribution to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations S/2013/124

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2013

Original: English

Twenty-fifth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2066 (2012), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2013 and requested me to keep it regularly informed of the situation on the ground as UNMIL continues its reconfiguration, as well as on progress towards achieving the transition benchmarks and on the development of a transition plan with the Government of Liberia. The present report provides the requested information, as well as an update on major developments since my report of 15 August 2012 (S/2012/641).

II. Major developments

A. Political situation

2. In December, the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf held a national conference, during which she launched Liberia Vision 2030, a long-term political and economic agenda for the country to realize its economic and social aspirations, covering issues related to a fair political system, security, rule of law and national reconciliation, among others. In conjunction with the launch, the President introduced the National Reconciliation Road Map and the Agenda for Transformation, the successor to the poverty reduction strategy, as instruments to help move the country towards its economic, political and social goals by 2030.

3. The constitutional reform process gathered momentum with the establishment by the President in August of the Constitution Review Committee, which is mandated to guide a nationwide, consultative review of the Constitution of Liberia. The current Constitution concentrates political power in the executive and centralizes State functions in Monrovia. The Committee is chaired by former Chief Justice Counsellor Gloria Musu-Scott and consists of five members from a cross section of religious, political and regional backgrounds. The Committee is expected to propose reforms to the President. The proposals will then be considered by the legislature, and put to a national referendum, which by law can occur no earlier than 12 months after legislative approval. According to the Committee's terms of reference, the process is to be completed before the October 2014 midterm senatorial elections; however, the Committee has requested an extension. The

Please recycle

United Nations is supporting the process, including with resource mobilization efforts.

4. Electoral reform efforts advanced, with the National Elections Commission beginning informal consultations with the legislature on a draft election law, which is expected, among other reforms, to clarify referendum procedures. Consultations were also held with political parties, civil society, religious and women's groups in 10 of the 15 counties of Liberia, and with a special working committee to integrate a gender perspective into the reform process.

5. In October, the Government initiated consultations in Monrovia on the National Reconciliation Road Map with civil society, political parties and legislators. Wider public consultations were not held as planned, reportedly owing to a lack of funds. In November, Nobel laureate Leymah Gbowee resigned as the head of the Liberia Reconciliation Initiative, citing her disappointment over what she described as pervasive corruption and nepotism. In December, President Johnson Sirleaf appointed George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), who had contested the 2005 and 2011 elections as the Standard-Bearer and Vice-Standard-Bearer for that party, as a peace ambassador overseeing national reconciliation efforts. Later that month, Mr. Weah named a 12-member committee to develop and manage his contribution to national reconciliation efforts.

6. The identification of a common forum through which political parties might contribute more directly to reform processes, including constitutional review and electoral reform, has remained elusive. Currently, there are two forums addressing these issues, the all-party Inter-Party Consultative Committee, which is led by the National Elections Commission but is limited to electoral reform issues, and the Political Consultative Forum, which is led by CDC but has only roughly half of the political parties in its membership. Efforts to merge the two forums failed following disagreements, including on whether the purpose of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee should be expanded beyond electoral matters to include other reform processes.

7. The fifty-third legislature went on its agricultural break in September after having enacted 22 bills and approved the 2012/13 national budget. The second session opened on 14 January 2013, with President Johnson Sirleaf delivering her state of the nation address on 28 January, in which she emphasized the Government's new and more transparent budget initiatives, including a three-year medium-term expenditure framework, and outlined expansive infrastructural and energy plans.

8. During the reporting period, relations between the legislature and the executive have at times been strained, with some opposition legislators threatening to commence an impeachment process against the President in January 2013. Some legislators also expressed concern that they had been insufficiently consulted on a number of executive-led processes, including Liberia Vision 2030 and the National Reconciliation Road Map. Challenges remain, despite dialogue facilitated by the National Traditional Council of Liberia and the Liberian Council of Churches in November.

9. One area of ongoing contention has been the role of the National Oil Company of Liberia in initiatives to reform the oil sector. The legislature, which launched its own reform, expressed reservations about a parallel executive-led reform process

dominated by the National Oil Company of Liberia, whose Chairman of the Board is the son of the President. The Senate held hearings on the General Audit Commission's dismissal of 46 staff members in November 2012, allegedly because of their engagement in a National Oil Company of Liberia audit. Meanwhile, the audit was suspended at the request of the Board of Companies. Amid public criticism in November 2012, some university students staged a peaceful protest demanding the resignation of the Auditor General and the reinstatement of the dismissed employees. Two deputies of the Auditor General also resigned in protest in December 2012.

10. On 17 January, the Senate received a communication from former President Charles Taylor requesting that the Government provide him with the financial benefits, amenities and diplomatic protections normally afforded to a former head of state. The request is under consideration. On 22 January, the Special Court for Sierra Leone began hearings into the appeal submitted by Mr. Taylor, who had been sentenced by the Court to 50 years in prison after being found guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone.

B. Security situation

11. The security situation in Liberia remains stable but fragile. During the reporting period, 31 mob violence incidents were reported, including 4 incidents of violence against national authorities and UNMIL. Armed robbery and violence against women and girls, including rape, continued to constitute primary security concerns. Almost half of the 211 reported armed robberies committed involved firearms. Sexual violence against women and girls remained high, with approximately 70 per cent of victims being minors and nearly 18 per cent being girls under the age of 10.

12. Tensions in several agricultural concession areas also continued to present security challenges. On 17 September, several armed individuals threatened the management and workers of Salala Rubber Corporation in Margibi County, claiming that local communities had not received promised compensation for land purchases. On 19 November, employees at the Sime Darby plantation in Bomi County gathered to protest the disappearance of a worker, for which they blamed the company. There were also confrontations between workers and management at Cavalla and Liberia Agriculture Corporation plantations, in Maryland and Grand Bassa counties, respectively.

13. Several generally peaceful demonstrations took place, in addition to three involving unrest. Many demonstrations involved public and private sector workers demanding salary arrears. The most prominent of those took place in Monrovia in September and October, when hundreds of students and teachers protested the non-payment of teachers' salaries. In September, 300 members of the opposition CDC party clashed with police in Monrovia over the alleged non-authorization of a march. Despite security concerns around a CDC commemoration of the 7 November 2011 events, in which one partisan had been shot dead in a clash with security forces, a peaceful environment prevailed. All of the demonstrations were addressed by national security agencies, with UNMIL advice and/or operational support, and no major incidents were reported.

14. On 22 November, a road traffic accident involving UNMIL personnel, and resulting in two deaths, prompted mob violence in Margibi County and the burning of a United Nations vehicle. On 12 December, a disturbance involving more than 100 people on the Monrovia-Gbarnga highway erupted after an Armed Forces of Liberia soldier stabbed a motorcycle taxi driver. Liberian police personnel, together with UNMIL military and police, responded to the scene in both incidents.

C. Regional issues

15. The situation along the border of Liberia with Côte d'Ivoire improved, with only one cross-border attack taking place during the reporting period, as indicated in my December 2012 report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2012/964). However, persistent reports of armed elements operating along the border and rumours of imminent attacks continued, contributing to an influx into Liberia of approximately 1,800 Ivorian refugees in September following the 13 August Péhékanhouébli attack in Côte d'Ivoire.

16. The Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire continued to strengthen their bilateral approach to addressing border security. During a meeting in Abidjan in October 2012, President Johnson Sirleaf and President Ouattara agreed to conduct joint border security operations and to reactivate the 1972 Joint Commission on Ivorian-Liberian Cooperation, which provides a framework for cooperation in economic, political, judicial, social and cultural spheres through periodic meetings. Between 23 December and 3 January, the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire conducted joint riverine patrols along the Cavalla River.

17. Meanwhile, Operation Restore Hope, which involves the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the armed forces, has been extended for at least an additional 90 days. This is the third extension since the Government launched the border operation in June 2012. The operation mitigated security threats and contributed to the arrest of 30 suspected armed elements and the recovery of 7 arms caches during the period under review.

18. On 15 October, the national police arrested a prominent "general" from one of Liberia's former warring factions in Ganta, Nimba County. He and an associate were subsequently arraigned in Monrovia for allegedly recruiting fighters for actions in Côte d'Ivoire. On 2 November, Liberian security forces discovered an arms cache in Grand Gedeh County containing three weapons that have since been confirmed as belonging to the UNOCI peacekeepers killed in western Côte d'Ivoire on 8 June 2012. In the context of bilateral agreements, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire requested the Government of Liberia, in December, to extradite eight Ivorian refugees registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The refugees are under detention in Liberia on charges connected to the 8 June 2012 attack. An extradition hearing began in Monrovia on 24 January.

19. As mentioned in my last report, UNMIL and UNOCI have enhanced their cooperation, including by revitalizing Operation Mayo, the twice-monthly concurrent border patrols that are followed by meetings with the military and civilian components of both missions, Liberian and Ivorian security personnel, local

officials and community leaders. These meetings allow for information-sharing, help dispel rumours and facilitate shared responsibility for border security. UNMIL conducted aerial and air-inserted foot border patrols, including simultaneous aerial patrols with UNOCI, in addition to three separate cross-border air patrols at the request of UNOCI. The two missions continued to improve information-sharing and coordination of actions, as well as collaboration on issues related to small arms and light weapons. In response to Security Council resolution 2066 (2012), in which the Council called on UNMIL and UNOCI to enhance their inter-mission cooperation for the stabilization of the border area, UNMIL is establishing a regional/inter-mission cooperation capacity to reinforce efforts to deliver on this mandated task.

20. Cooperation has also expanded beyond security tasks and the sharing of resources, with UNMIL and UNOCI agreeing in September to identify targeted, longer-term initiatives to enhance stability in border areas, such as the promotion of conditions for sustainable return and reintegration of displaced persons. Among the areas of focus, which would involve the entire United Nations family in both countries, are food security, alternative livelihoods, land disputes, social cohesion and reconciliation, youth employment, community violence reduction and disarmament. Along these lines, funding is being sought for a three-year pilot cross-border action plan on food security, nutrition and social cohesion, which is expected to be launched in early 2013.

21. The situation along the borders of Liberia with Guinea and Sierra Leone remained generally stable. During the elections in Sierra Leone in November 2012, Liberian security agencies established security coordination mechanisms to avert any spillover of unrest, in coordination with UNMIL and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). As contingency measures during the electoral period, UNMIL deployed a military helicopter to Freetown and increased air and foot patrols in the context of Operation Loko, conducted jointly by UNMIL and Liberian and Sierra Leonean security agencies. Operation Seskin, involving joint patrolling of the Liberia-Guinea border by UNMIL and Liberian and Guinean security agencies, also continued.

D. Humanitarian situation

22. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners, including the Government, continued a verification and biometric registration exercise. As at 18 February, 64,168 Ivorian refugees had been registered in Liberia. While this represents an increase of over 6,100 since my last report, arrivals declined sharply from October onwards, and some 2,176 refugees returned to Côte d'Ivoire in January alone. UNHCR estimates that approximately 16,000 refugees will return to Côte d'Ivoire in 2013. Notwithstanding the Government's policy of relocating refugees into camps, approximately 42 per cent of Ivorian refugees remained in some 200 host communities at the end of 2012. These communities are difficult to access and offer limited livelihood opportunities.

23. The Government also continued its efforts to consolidate refugee camps to streamline the delivery of services, protection and assistance. Dougee camp in Grand Gedeh County is scheduled to close by March 2013 and its 5,700 inhabitants are to be relocated to either the camp in Grand Gedeh County on land formerly

owned by Prime Timber Production Company (PTP camp) or Little Wlebo camp in Maryland County. The Government has also taken steps to maintain the civilian nature of asylum, including by deploying police units to camps. However, as indicated in paragraph 15 above, rumours about cross-border instability persist, and the security of refugees remains a concern.

24. In 2012, only 38 per cent of the $97 million consolidated humanitarian appeal was funded. In lieu of a consolidated appeal for 2013, the United Nations country team has developed a humanitarian response plan, requiring $36 million in funding, to address critical needs in seven counties.

25. Meanwhile, the Government of Liberia, with support from UNMIL, worked to develop county-specific preparedness plans for disaster response and to identify risks in the mining and forestry sectors. As a result of these efforts, draft legislation to establish a national disaster management agency was prepared, which is under review by the legislature.

E. Human rights situation

26. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights made progress in overcoming its persistent organizational challenges. The Commission continued to work with civil society and ministries to develop the national human rights action plan, which is expected to be validated by the Government later this year. In August, following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Steering Committee of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the National Commission on Disabilities initiated efforts to develop strategies to implement the Convention. In December, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights initiated a campaign against child sexual abuse, in collaboration with State and civil society actors.

27. The implementation of Government guidelines regulating the traditional practices of the Sande and Poro secret societies, which impede children from attending school in some areas, began during the reporting period. In order to improve the enrolment of girls in school traditional leaders in Grand Cape Mount County agreed not to conduct Sande society activities during the formal education period.

28. In November, the communities of Samay and Kpolopala in Bong County dedicated a memorial to those killed during the conflict, including some 500 victims whose remains were exhumed and reburied in 2009, marking Liberia's first memorialization of this kind.

F. Economic situation

29. As part of the efforts related to the Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 planning, I appointed President Johnson Sirleaf as one of three co-chairs of a high-level panel mandated to provide a vision for a new global post-2015 development agenda. The panel met in Monrovia from 30 January to 1 February to undertake consultations with various stakeholders on the factors that would lead to a structural transformation through an agreed agenda.

30. The Liberian economy continued to grow steadily, owing to higher demand for its export commodities and increased foreign direct investment. Real gross domestic product is projected to grow by 9.3 per cent in 2012, up from 8.7 in 2011, bolstered by rubber, timber and iron ore exports, increased concession activity and expansion of the construction sector. The mining sector's contribution to growth increased from 3.7 per cent in 2011 to 10.4 per cent in 2012, primarily as a result of the expansion in the production of iron ore. However, owing to limited employment opportunities in the mining sector and the continued underperformance of the agricultural sector, unemployment remains extremely high, particularly among young people. Meanwhile, inflation was expected to fall to 5.2 per cent in 2012, down from 8.5 per cent in 2011, but Liberia remains vulnerable to increases in international food and fuel prices, as the country is still heavily dependent on imports, which could affect the inflation rate.

III. Development of national security and justice capacities

A. Transition planning and implementation

31. Following the successful joint Government-UNMIL transition workshop in August 2012, the activities of the Government-UNMIL joint transition working group increased in momentum and shifted from planning towards implementation. From October to December, several small facilities were handed over to the Government, as UNMIL military scaled down in more stable areas. However, in January a company-sized location at Foya, Lofa County, was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs rather than to police and immigration officials, as resources were not available to support the deployment of police and immigration personnel, illustrating national constraints in planning capacity, equipment, financial resources and management. Poor infrastructure, particularly roads, also poses a major challenge to national security agencies, a concern that will grow as UNMIL military enablers are drawn down.

32. UNMIL and the Government of Liberia have developed a transition road map, with comprehensive timelines, outlining all elements related to the security transition through June 2015, including enhanced Government presence, as required, in areas vacated by UNMIL troops. Lessons are being drawn from the Mission's ongoing first drawdown phase, which will inform planning for larger withdrawals throughout 2013 and 2014. The implementation of those reductions will take place in a phased manner, and the situation will be kept under close review.

33. A meeting of the Transition Core Group in December 2012, expanded to include all heads of security agencies, identified the need for greater coordination between security stakeholders and the Ministry of Finance to address immediate shortfalls in resources over the next six months. To that end, the working group is developing a budget gap analysis to be discussed at a retreat in March 2013. At the retreat the working group will update the costing of the transition, which in 2010 was estimated at approximately $70 million for the first year, with a subsequent annual cost of approximately $30 million.

B. National security strategy and architecture

34. As I indicated in my last report, the national budget for the 2012/13 fiscal year was initially submitted with reductions for the security sector components, notwithstanding an overall increase due to higher allocations for the national army. The budget was subsequently amended in August 2012 and signed into law by the President in September. Compared with the 2011/12 national budget, allocations for the national police increased by 29 per cent, while allocations for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization increased by 69 per cent. The national army also received an increased allocation of 22 per cent, as compared with the previous budget. In spite of those increases, the security agencies continue to face operational challenges owing to difficulties in accessing allocated funds.

35. Enhancement of oversight and accountability within the security sector remains critical for reform. The Peacebuilding Fund has allocated resources to support a review of management and accountability mechanisms within the national police, the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary. In addition, the Ministry of Justice, with support from UNMIL, is developing a civilian complaints mechanism, as well as an independent civilian oversight body, initially for the police. The Ministry of Justice established a technical working group to support those initiatives and to develop a new police law. In addition to addressing issues such as the optimal size and structure for the police, including the integration of the National Bureau of Investigation into the national police structure, the new law should provide clarity on important coordination issues, including relations with the national army, as set out in generic terms in the 2008 National Defence Act.

36. The United Nations Gender Thematic Group established a mechanism to coordinate gender and security sector activities on a quarterly basis, including developing a basic module on gender and security sector reform for national security agencies. While efforts to mainstream human rights in the security sector continue, with an emphasis on greater human rights monitoring and accountability within the national police, the Bureau of Immigration and Nationalization and the national army, eight cases involving abuse by security sector personnel were reported. Although the police have investigated the incidents, no disciplinary action has been taken to date against the officers involved.

37. In August 2012, the legislature enacted a law creating the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms, which will be responsible for developing and implementing arms control measures. Financial resources have yet to be allocated to the Commission, and commissioners have not yet been appointed. In October, Executive Order No. 34, which temporarily banned ownership of firearms, expired. A draft firearms control bill that would update obsolete legislation is pending in the legislature.

C. National police

38. The Government of Liberia and its partners have acknowledged that, notwithstanding the need for additional police personnel, addressing issues such as the quality of training, professional standards, accountability, public trust and sustainability is central to the ability of the police to perform their duties. As indicated in paragraph 35 above, the new police law under development is expected

to clarify the functions and structure of the police and its relationship with other security agencies, and to address issues critical to the professionalization of the police service, such as recruitment and promotion.

39. The national police, with support from UNMIL, made efforts to improve civilian oversight to help professionalize the service and enhance public trust. The Professional Standards Department, which investigates reports of officer misconduct, has established a database to monitor misconduct cases and is taking measures to improve confidentiality. During the reporting period, the national police held over 600 community police meetings across the country, including 30 outreach programmes involving schools. The public has displayed an increased willingness to participate in community police meetings and to provide information contributing to the prevention of crime and arrests.

40. As at 1 February, the strength of the national police stood at 4,417 personnel, including 767 women, of whom 36 were in leadership positions. A total of 245 recruits graduated from the police academy in 2012, including 48 women. Training of an additional 303 recruits was delayed until mid-February due to lack of funding. Another 300 will be trained later in the year in line with the academy's expanded capacity to accommodate 600 recruits per year.

41. During the reporting period, 13 projects to support implementation of the national police strategic plan were completed. They focused on improving operational efficiency, investigative and training capacity, and administrative accountability. The national police also established project review committees that met weekly. In December 2012, the police forensic science laboratory began to use ballistic examination equipment and initiated training on the use of the equipment, which will help to assemble credible evidence in criminal cases in which firearms are involved.

42. The Transnational Crime Unit continues gradually to develop its capacity and to benefit from its collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. During the reporting period, the Unit successfully investigated alleged drug trafficking, human trafficking and money-laundering. Several Transnational Crime Unit and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) officers underwent training in drug identification and trafficking, weapons smuggling and transnational and organized crimes investigations and operations.

D. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization

43. The comprehensive reform of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization began in February 2012. Since that time, the agency has undertaken the vetting, recruitment and training of 250 recruits. Although the total number of Bureau personnel stands at over 1,800, many of them will be deactivated in the course of the vetting and training processes.

44. The Bureau made progress in implementing its strategic plan, with the establishment of a strategic project review board. A number of initiatives, including the development of a duty manual, a code of conduct and assets management policies have been approved by the Ministry of Justice. A revised ranking structure is still awaiting approval. Capacity-building of the Bureau also continued, with immigration officers receiving specialized training in a range of areas, including

human trafficking, document fraud detection, and basic intelligence and investigation.

45. Donor support for the Bureau, which is critical in view of its important role in securing the country's borders, has been increasing, and has included computer equipment, funding for a document fraud detection unit and support for drafting a migration policy. Infrastructure at five border posts was completed during the last six months with funding support from UNMIL quick-impact projects. In November 2012, the Government of Liberia allocated land for a new headquarters for the Bureau, and is seeking donor support for its construction.

E. Judicial, legal and corrections institutions

46. Coordination within the justice and security sectors continued to improve. The collaborative approach employed during the first year of implementation of the Justice and Security Joint Programme and the leadership of its oversight body, the Justice and Security Board, which brings together the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, civil society, donors and United Nations actors, has greatly contributed in this regard.

47. A number of initiatives to improve access to justice for Liberians continue to make progress. The pilot justice and security hub in Gbarnga, which is supported by the Peacebuilding Fund, is becoming operational, with the extension of both the Probation Service and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violent Crimes Unit to the region. Civic education activities to inform communities about the hub are also ongoing through the Public Service Office. One human rights monitor, two prosecutors and two public defenders each have been deployed to Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties. Twenty corrections officers, to be deployed to facilities within the region, have commenced induction training and the hub training facility has begun to provide training for justice and security personnel. The hub is expected to be fully operational in the second quarter of 2013. It will take approximately six months before an initial assessment of its impact can be made. Meanwhile, discussions are under way concerning the development of the second and third justice and security hubs, taking into account lessons learned in establishing the pilot hub.

48. During the period under review, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs continued work towards developing policy options for harmonizing the customary and formal justice systems, which is critical for improved access to justice. Broad-based consultations, including with civil society, are planned for early 2013. In September, access to justice was the theme of the Open Day on Women, Peace and Security, during which more than 70 women from across Liberia presented their recommendations for enhancing access to justice. Effective investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases remain problematic, and out-of-court settlements are prevalent. In October, the Ministries of Gender and Justice, in collaboration with the United Nations, convened a workshop that developed recommendations for addressing child rape that are being implemented under the Government-United Nations Joint Programme on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

49. The criminal justice system continued to face systemic problems that contributed to the denial of justice to victims and alleged perpetrators. Those accused of crimes rarely face trial, and pretrial detention in the nation's prisons

remains at approximately 80 per cent. The judiciary and the Ministry of Justice have initiated procedures for the regular review of detention cases, and it is hoped that draft legislation developed to address delays within the system by amending the jury law and expanding the jurisdiction of magisterial courts will be signed into law in early 2013.

50. Persistently elevated rates of pretrial detention generated frustration and security challenges within corrections facilities, including at Monrovia Central Prison, which holds approximately half of the prison population of Liberia. Since 1 August, 13 jailbreaks have occurred around the country. Inadequate staffing at the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation remains a problem. Sixty-nine corrections officers were trained in the use of non-lethal force during the period under review. Some steps have also been taken towards improving the health and nutrition of the incarcerated population. In September, the Ministry of Health, with the International Committee of the Red Cross, organized a workshop for prison superintendents focused on the management of prisoner nutrition and the standardization of health care. Two new health clinics were established at Tubmanburg and Zwedru Prisons in December and January, respectively, with support from UNMIL quick-impact projects. Preparations also continued for the construction of a new prison in Montserrado County.

F. Armed forces

51. At an extraordinary summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in January, President Johnson Sirleaf pledged a platoon of Liberian troops for the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA), which the legislature subsequently endorsed.

52. As indicated in paragraph 17 above, the armed forces continued to participate in the joint border security initiative, Operation Restore Hope, along the border of Liberia with Côte d'Ivoire. This first-ever deployment provided an indication of the army's potential, although logistical and other support deficiencies exist. Additional training and support is also required to overcome challenges with respect to strategic and operational planning and decision-making. A draft of the national defence strategy has been developed and is expected to be approved in February 2013, and the armed forces are expected to become fully operational by 2014.

IV. Extension of State authority throughout the country

A. State authority

53. The extension of State authority and the Government's capacity to deliver basic services have improved, although challenges persist in addressing infrastructure needs, and the capacity of local government officials to administer effectively remains limited. In the national budget $3 million has been allocated for county development funds ($200,000 each), to be accessed by county councils. Efforts to empower county officials continue, with the Ministry of Internal Affairs focusing on building mechanisms for local economic development and responsive governance through regular training and workshops for officials. Meanwhile, transparency and accountability mechanisms are being put in place to encourage the

effective management of funds by local bodies, such as county councils (the highest county-level decision-making body for each development fund), county development management committees and project management teams.

54. In October, the Government unveiled a five-year $50 million draft decentralization implementation plan (2012-2017), including a three-year de-concentration implementation strategy (2012-2015), which aims to transfer some functions of 12 line ministries and 2 agencies to the counties, in addition to investing $23 million directly in county office structures. Despite initial commitments valued at $17.4 million from donors, a funding gap of nearly $32.6 million remains. A draft local government act, the legal and regulatory framework for implementing the national decentralization and local governance policy, is under review by stakeholders, including line ministries, donors, the United Nations country team and others. However, its passage alone will be insufficient for implementation of decentralization measures; constitutional amendments would also be required.

55. Efforts were made to expand road rehabilitation; however, the already poor access to significant parts of the country deteriorated further as a result of the prolonged rainy season. This, in turn, contributed to a significant increase in the price of rice and fuel in some isolated rural areas. In November, the Ministry of Public Works initiated its dry season road infrastructure programme, and the Government released $15 million for emergency road repairs. Donors have increased support to the infrastructure sector through the World Bank-managed Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund, committing some $175 million for primary road rehabilitation.

B. Governance

56. The issue of corruption and public integrity remained a central feature of public discourse. Progress in combating corruption remains slow. Since 2010, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission has submitted 24 cases for prosecution to the Ministry of Justice. The first conviction was handed down in November 2012, and is being appealed. In August 2012, the President took steps to enforce Executive Order No. 38, by which an administrative code of conduct was established. Those steps included suspending ministers and other officials pending their compliance with asset declaration rules. The Government has not taken action on recommendations from audits of public institutions, and the code of conduct for the civil service has yet to be passed by the legislature.

C. Natural resources

57. During the period under review, considerable media and civil society attention focused on lack of transparency in the awarding of private use permits for the commercial exploitation of 2 million hectares of forest. In August 2012, the President commissioned a special independent investigative body to conduct a review of private use permits. Based on its recommendations, the President subsequently requested a review of the legal and regulatory framework governing the management of community forest areas and private use permits, as well as the prosecution of violators of the National Forestry Reform Law and the Community

Rights Law. The President also dissolved the Board of Directors of the Forest Development Authority and ordered a full audit of the agency. On 4 January, the President issued Executive Order No. 44, suspending the issuance of private use permits and any activity related to timber felling or exporting under such licences, reinforcing the moratorium that the Forestry Development Authority had established in February 2012. Meanwhile, tax arrears owed by commercial timber operators have grown to $34.7 million.

58. Confrontations continue between local communities and rubber and oil palm plantations over the manner in which land is appropriated to develop and/or expand concession areas. Many of these disputes stem from concession procurement, which relies on an undefined land tenure system that considers all untitled land to be publicly owned. This means that the State can assert eminent domain without seeking the consent of affected communities. In August, the Government, with funding from the African Development Bank, launched a review of five agriculture agreements, with the aim of converting them from their existing land leases into full concession agreements in line with international model lease agreements. In addition, in December, the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative commissioned a process audit of the four concessions awarded by the Government between 2009 and 2011.

59. All concession agreements contain provisions for tripartite mechanisms, including for conflict resolution, which if implemented, would enable effective Government oversight. However, while the Government should take the lead in mediating confrontations that arise when companies begin to demarcate, establish and expand concession areas, this task is increasingly falling on civil society and non-governmental organizations, which have been successful in bringing grievances to national and international attention. In Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi counties (Sime Darby), Grand Bassa County (Equatorial Palm Oil) and Maryland and River Gee counties (Maryland Oil Palm Plantation), communities and companies have made efforts to negotiate with one another directly, with UNMIL supporting dialogue in each county.

60. Nationwide consultations with civil society organizations and women and youth groups are taking place on a draft land rights policy that would cover four land tenure categories — public, government, customary and private — and address security of tenure, equal access and equal benefits for all categories of land users. It is expected to form the basis for a new land rights law and serve as the foundation for reform of the land sector. The Land Commission, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and other partners, supported the establishment of land coordination centres in five counties. The first centre, in Lofa County, began providing dispute resolution services and taking complaints in January.

61. In 2012, a total of 34,018.96 carats of rough diamonds, valued at $12.49 million, was exported, providing $0.37 million in Government revenue. Compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme remains constrained, however, owing to a lack of resources and the absence of effective State authority in production regions. Capacity gaps in regional government diamond offices hindered the ability of the authorities to monitor and control the movement of diamonds out of counties. A technical committee of the Presidential Task Force on Diamonds met regularly to address outstanding recommendations for strengthening the sector and

to prepare for a Kimberley Process Certification Scheme review mission in March. In November, public consultations to revise the existing Mining and Mineral Law of 2000 began.

V. Cross-cutting issues

A. Integration of the United Nations system

62. The United Nations in Liberia continued to strengthen its efforts at "Delivering as one" by finalizing the "One programme", which is the successor to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The programme includes four pillars, which are aligned with the Government's Agenda for Transformation pillar structure. The pillars are: peace, security and rule of law; sustainable economic transformation; human development; and governance and public institutions. Under the pillars are 11 outcome working groups, which are the technical programming drivers. The programme also has a costed action plan. To further harmonize programming and operations, the United Nations country team developed joint workplans for 2013, including resource allocations within the parameters of "One budget".

63. Progress was also made in change management, with the United Nations system implementing a shared information and communications technology platform and working to launch common processes on procurement, administration and human resources.

B. Public information

64. In January, the President publicly committed her administration to protecting freedom of the press. However, national legislation has not yet been amended to bring the law in line with the Declaration of Table Mountain on press freedom in Africa, which the President signed in July 2012.

65. UNMIL is working with the Government of Liberia on assuaging uncertainties and managing public expectations over the drawdown of UNMIL troops and the handover of security responsibilities to national authorities. A working group on communications has been established within the joint Government-UNMIL working group focused on transition. A broad transition communications strategy is also being developed in consultation with the United Nations country team and Government partners.

66. In November, UNMIL Radio began carrying UNOCI Radio programming in French on Ivorian reconciliation initiatives for the benefit of Ivorian refugees in border counties in Liberia. In the period leading up to the November 2012 elections in Sierra Leone, UNMIL Radio broadcast weekly interviews with Sierra Leonean election officials and aired these in Liberian communities along the border with Sierra Leone.

C. Gender

67. UNMIL continued to mainstream gender issues in its work, including training its personnel on implementing mandates on women, peace and security. In addition, the United Nations and the Ministry of Gender and Development continued to coordinate gender-related activities, including strengthening mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and strengthening the Ministry's capacity in the counties.

68. In November 2012, UNMIL and the United Nations Office for West Africa convened representatives from women's civil society organizations from 10 West African countries, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union and the United Nations to discuss women's leadership during peacekeeping transitions. Among the recommendations was a call for enhanced local ownership of the transition agenda and deepened cooperation with regional organizations.

D. HIV/AIDS

69. In line with Security Council resolution 1983 (2011) on the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in conflict and post-conflict situations, UNMIL, with support from the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), trained 20 HIV-awareness trainers from Liberian security sector agencies. UNMIL also conducted HIV-awareness training for 1,611 newly deployed peacekeepers.

E. Conduct and discipline

70. UNMIL continued its efforts to prevent misconduct through induction and refresher training for all categories of personnel and sensitization programmes for local communities in proximity to United Nations installations. Spot checks of off-limits establishments and risk assessment visits to military installations were among the measures taken to ensure compliance with my policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. Partnerships have been strengthened to raise awareness about the United Nations victim assistance mechanism. Between 1 August 2012 and 18 February 2013, nine allegations of serious misconduct by peacekeepers were reported, including one allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse.

F. Security and safety of United Nations personnel

71. Criminal activity and road traffic accidents were the primary threats to United Nations personnel and assets, especially in Monrovia. Between 1 August 2012 and 1 February 2013, two United Nations personnel were the targets of armed robbery. In addition, 28 non-weapon-related crimes, including burglary, theft and assault, were reported. There were 11 cases of arrest and detention of United Nations personnel. During the period under review, two international staff members, one national staff member and two military personnel died as a result of illness or accident.

VI. Deployment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

A. Military component

72. The authorized military strength of UNMIL in September stood at 7,952 personnel, including a force headquarters in Monrovia, six infantry battalions deployed in two sectors, a battalion-sized quick reaction force based in Monrovia and two forward operating bases near routes to the borders with Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

73. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2066 (2012), the UNMIL force began the next stage of its drawdown. By 18 February, 1,130 troops had been repatriated from Liberia, including an infantry battalion (770 troops), an engineering company (260 troops) and a signals company (100 troops). The military strength of UNMIL as at 18 February 2013 stood at 6,822 military personnel, including 183 women. The UNMIL force has now left Rivercess County, Robertsport in Grand Cape Mount County and Foya in Lofa County.

74. UNMIL and UNOCI continued to support each other through inter-mission cooperation arrangements and closely coordinated border activities, as detailed in paragraph 19 above. The two missions also continued preparations to put into effect the provisions of resolution 2062 (2012) authorizing the transfer of three armed helicopters deployed in Liberia to Côte d'Ivoire to be used in both countries and along and across the border. In January 2012, the concerned troop-contributing country approved the transfer, which is expected to take place later this year.

B. Police component

75. As at 18 February, UNMIL had 1,340 police personnel, out of an authorized ceiling of 1,795, including 498 police advisers (16 of whom are immigration advisers), 1,265 personnel in 10 formed police units and 32 corrections officers. There are 186 women in the police component. Three of the 10 formed police units were newly authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2066 (2012). In keeping with that resolution, the advance team for the first of the three additional formed police units deployed to Liberia in January 2013. That unit, which will be based in Bomi County, is expected to become operational in February 2013. In addition, UNMIL has three formed police units deployed in Monrovia, and one unit each in Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh and Lofa counties.

C. Civilian component

76. Of the authorized staffing of 1,817 civilian personnel, 1,664 were serving in the Mission as at 1 February, of whom 24 per cent were women. Of the 500 substantive staff, 26 per cent were women, while 23 per cent of the 1,164 administrative staff were women.

VII. Observations

77. Liberia continues to make important strides in consolidating its hard-won peace and stability. I salute the aspirations of the people of Liberia to engage in the challenging work required to overcome the deep-seated cleavages of the past and to

build a future based on equal access to political, social and economic opportunities. This commitment to addressing the issues that continue to divide Liberians will help to ensure that the country remains on the path to positive transformation.

78. I welcome the launch of Liberia Vision 2030, which charts a path to achieving social cohesion and socioeconomic development over the next two decades. Liberia's five-year development plan, the Agenda for Transformation, offers an important opportunity to build on the country's impressive post-war recovery, and I encourage partners to support it. I hope to see wide engagement on the National Reconciliation Road Map, which opens the door to a structured discussion on cleavages of the past and present and to finding a constructive path to address the challenges that affect every Liberian. At the same time, it will be important that all Liberians, particularly those in public office, do their part to help deliver on these far-reaching promises.

79. It remains critical for Liberia, with the support of its partners, to continue to address the issues that will pave the way for the country's long-term progress. In order to take root, all reform processes must reflect the will of the people and include their active participation. I therefore welcome the vibrant and sometimes discordant, but constructive, dialogue under way on issues that go to the heart of sustainable peace, including constitutional reform, decentralization and national reconciliation.

80. In addition to its efforts to advance national reconciliation, Liberia has initiated an important process of constitutional reform. I am encouraged by those steps, which will strengthen the foundations of the country's long-term stability. The Constitution Review Committee has begun to engage widely on the consultative process to be followed, as well as on the substantive content to be addressed, including whether to pursue limited amendments or a broader revision of the Constitution. Constitutional reform presents the opportunity to institutionalize important aspects of Liberia's post-conflict reform agenda, including the decentralization of Government functions, which is expected not only to improve access to basic services but also to increase citizens' engagement in the political sphere.

81. Long-term stability will also require that Liberia's security sector is able to stand alone and is trusted by its citizens. In order to ensure its professionalism, the security sector will require effective oversight and accountability mechanisms, adherence to democratic principles and respect for human rights. The successful operations of security agencies, including in border areas, are an indication of increased capability. UNMIL will continue to support the Government in its efforts to increase the size and professionalism of its police and other security services. However, it will also be vital that the Government continue to demonstrate its own commitment by allocating sufficient resources to cover operational, recurrent and development costs. Given the importance of border security, it is encouraging that budget allocations for the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization have increased and that there is progress in the vetting and training of its personnel.

82. I am encouraged by the progress made by the Government and UNMIL in advancing the security transition process, which has now moved into the implementation stage. Commendable efforts have been made by Liberian stakeholders, with UNMIL support, to overcome the operational challenges the Government faces in deploying police and immigration officers to areas of the country where UNMIL military has been withdrawn. The United Nations will continue to keep the situation under close review. In the meantime, it will be critical

for the Government to allocate sufficient resources to this process and for the security services to align their deployment plans and training schedules with the pace of the transition. Coordination among the various mechanisms supporting transition and development of the justice and security sectors is also essential.

83. Important efforts have been made by the Liberian and Ivorian authorities to enhance security along their shared border. Liberia has shown commitment to do its part, including through the continued deployment of Operation Restore Hope. UNMIL has also enhanced its efforts, in collaboration with UNOCI, to support Government efforts. The situation remains fragile and will continue to pose risks until underlying issues are addressed. Communities on both sides of the border will need to grapple with a host of challenges that go to the root of instability, including land tenure issues, ethnic tensions, socioeconomic vulnerability, activities linked to illicit resource exploitation, the availability of weapons and the presence of former fighters and mercenaries. The consolidation of peace will therefore depend on a comprehensive, long-term strategy for addressing those and other underlying issues. It is important that the two Governments continue to take forward their discussions on the development of a shared border strategy.

84. The continued stability of Liberia depends in significant part on good governance and the rule of law. Improving the criminal justice system, addressing impunity for crimes and increasing access to justice and security services for all Liberians remain particularly important for the consolidation of peace. In this regard, I welcome the progress that has been made to operationalize the justice and security hub in Gbarnga. I also note that preparatory work is under way for the construction of the second and third hubs, and I urge that the lessons from the Gbarnga experience be used to inform these forthcoming projects.

85. In previous reports, I have highlighted the challenge of continued impunity for crimes and for human rights violations. I am encouraged that recent cases of mob violence have resulted in arrests. It will be important that these cases move expeditiously through the court system. Notwithstanding important progress made in strengthening response mechanisms and the reporting of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence, the prosecution of these cases remains a challenge, owing to weak institutional capacity and the high cost, both financially and socially, for the victims and their families. Efforts for prevention require much greater attention, both from the Government and international partners.

86. Land is critical in Liberia, both as a potential source of conflict and an opportunity for improved livelihoods. At the same time, in the light of recurrent disputes, notably over land, local mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution and local peace committees have an important role to play. I strongly encourage the Government to establish functional dispute resolution mechanisms to address specific conflicts between concessionaires and communities.

87. In conclusion, I wish to thank my Special Representative for Liberia, Karin Landgren, as well as all UNMIL civilian and uniformed personnel for their contribution towards peace consolidation in Liberia. I would also like to thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, ECOWAS and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, the Peacebuilding Commission, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and Liberian and international non-governmental organizations for their contributions to sustaining peace and development in Liberia.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Liberia: military and police strength as at 18 February 2013

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Civilian police
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Argentina	–	–	–	–		12
Bangladesh	13	7	1 379	1 39		9
Benin	2	1	–	3		–
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2	1	–	3		–
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	–	–		10
Brazil	2	1	–	3		–
Bulgaria	2	–	–	2		–
China	2	6	558	566		18
Croatia	–	2	–	2		–
Czech Republic	–	–	–	–		–
Denmark	3	2	–	5		–
Ecuador	2	1	–	3		–
Egypt	7	–	–	7		5
El Salvador	2	–	–	2		2
Ethiopia	10	4	–	14		–
Fiji	–	–	–	–		31
Finland	–	2	–	2		–
France	–	1	–	1		–
Gambia	2	–	–	2		18
Germany	–	–	–	–		5
Ghana	9	7	700	716		27
India	–	–	–	–	255	5
Indonesia	1	–	–	1		–
Jamaica	–	–	–	–		–
Jordan	4	5	116	125	239	16
Kenya	–	2	–	2		23
Kyrgyzstan	3	–	–	3		4
Malaysia	5	–	–	5		–
Mali	–	–	–	–		–
Mongolia	–	–	–	–		–
Montenegro	2	–	–	2		–
Namibia	1	3	–	4		3
Nepal	4	3	15	22	256	15
Niger	2	–	–	2		–
Nigeria	13	9	1 459	1 481	120	14

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Civilian police
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Norway	–	–	–	–		9
Pakistan	7	9	1 990	2 006		14
Paraguay	2	1	–	3		–
Peru	2	2	–	4		–
Philippines	2	1	115	118		34
Poland	1	–	–	1		2
Republic of Korea	1	1	–	2		–
Republic of Moldova	2	–	–	2		–
Romania	2	–	–	2		–
Russian Federation	4	–	–	4		9
Rwanda	–	–	–	–		8
Samoa	–	–	–	–		–
Senegal	1	2	–	3		–
Serbia	4	–	–	4		6
Sri Lanka	–	–	–	–		14
Sweden	–	–	–	–		19
Switzerland	–	–	–	–		3
Togo	2	1	–	3		–
Turkey	–	–	–	–		28
Uganda	–	–	–	–		14
Ukraine	2	2	275	279		19
United States of America	4	6	–	10		15
Uruguay	–	–	–	–		4
Yemen	–	1	–	1		5
Zambia	2	–	–	2		19
Zimbabwe	1	–	–	1		31
Total	**132**	**83**	**6 607**	**6 822**	**870**	**470**

United Nations S/2013/125

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 28 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration contained in document S/2013/10 dated 2 January 2013.

I have the further honour to notify you that Australia wishes the following item, included under paragraph 3 of document S/2013/10, to remain on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized:

76. General issues relating to sanctions.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gary **Quinlan**

13-24743 (E) 040313

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/781–S/2013/126

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 37
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you, in my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, to convey the Movement's grave concern regarding the critical situation of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including children and women, who are being unlawfully held by Israel, the occupying Power, in prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Israel.

While the Movement expresses its deep appreciation for the principled statements and positions you have affirmed, including through your Personal Representative, Robert Serry, on this critical issue, we underscore the urgent need at this time for international attention and efforts to address the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. We emphasize in this regard the urgency of attention to this crisis, which has raised tensions and is causing further instability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses its grave concern in particular about the recent death of a Palestinian man, Arafat Jaradat, in an Israeli prison on 23 February 2013, following his arrest on 18 February by the Israeli occupying forces, and about the circumstances surrounding his detention and death, including reports of his subjugation to forced interrogations and beatings. Echoing the call made by your Personal Representative, the Movement calls for an independent, impartial and transparent investigation, to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, into this serious incident as soon as possible and for the release of the results of the investigation. The Movement would be grateful for your attention and efforts to facilitate this important matter and to contribute to diffusing the tense situation, which risks further destabilization with far-reaching consequences.

In this connection, the Movement also conveys its deep concern regarding the plight of several Palestinian prisoners and detainees who are undertaking long-term hunger strikes in peaceful, non-violent protests against their detention by Israel without charge or trial and other abuses and oppressive measures that violate their most fundamental human rights. The lives of at least four men on hunger strike are

Please recycle

in imminent danger owing to their deteriorating health conditions. The Movement calls for immediate attention to this crisis and for an urgent, humane solution to their plight in accordance with international legal standards and principles. Furthermore, it reiterates its demand that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees and cease forthwith its arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians.

It must be reaffirmed that Israel has specific obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, towards the Palestinian prisoners and detainees under its incarceration and the entire Palestinian civilian population under its military occupation. We thus urge you to use your good offices and the moral authority with which you speak on behalf of the United Nations, consistent with the purposes and principles of its Charter, relevant resolutions and the applicable provisions of international law, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to respect its legal obligations in this regard. A clear message must be conveyed to Israel that it will be held accountable by the international community for its violations of international law.

Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses the necessity of ensuring the requisite assistance to Palestinian prisoners and their families, including for the reintegration of prisoners into their communities, particularly in the light of the devastating impact this issue has had on Palestinian society as a whole. We express our appreciation in this regard for the efforts of the United Nations agencies on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In parallel with your actions and those of your Personal Representative, the Movement believes that all other United Nations bodies, particularly the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, should live up to the expectation of the international community and fulfil their responsibilities, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, relevant resolutions and the applicable provisions of international law, with respect to the plight of the prisoners and detainees that are unlawfully held by the Israelis.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
and Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau

United Nations A/67/773–S/2013/127

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith the recorded infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, committed during the month of December 2012. I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic infringement by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by blatantly violating international rules in a way that seriously jeopardizes international aviation safety in the region.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-24775 (E) 050313

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
5 December 2012	1330-1530	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia area control centre (ACC).
	1755-1815	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1850-1907	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
6 December 2012	0947-1005	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1602-1615	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
10 December 2012	1151-1212	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1258-1312	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1610-1630	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1720-1744	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
14 December 2012	1103-1123	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1446-1458	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
15 December 2012	0907-0925	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1106-1116	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
16 December 2012	1002-1027	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1357-1416	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
17 December 2012	1004-1155	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1352-1502	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1928-1944	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	2008-2028	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
20 December 2012	1004-1029	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1115-1354	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
22 December 2012	1331-1354	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1725-1740	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
25 December 2012	1151-1320	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
26 December 2012	0900-1117	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
27 December 2012	1224-1334	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
29 December 2012	1327-1347	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1550-1610	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

United Nations A/ES-10/584–S/2013/128

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 4 March 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine, regrettably continues to deteriorate owing to the oppressive, violent practices that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to inflict on the Palestinian people in violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

Reflecting mounting despair, hundreds of Palestinians have continued to partake in demonstrations against the Israeli occupation, particularly against the abuse of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including the recent torture and killing of a Palestinian detainee, Arafat Jaradat, and in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners, as well as against Israel's settlement, wall and colonization of Palestinian land. Israel's violent suppression of these non-violent civilian protests is causing extensive casualties and further destabilizing the situation.

On Friday, 1 March, numerous demonstrations were held, including in Ramallah, Bethlehem and surrounding villages, Al-Khalil, the village of Bil'in, the village of Nabi Saleh, Anata, Salfit, Abu Dis, Al-Ram, Nablus and at the Qalandiya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Two protesters were critically wounded after being hit by live ammunition: Mahmoud Odeh, aged 20, was shot in the head by Israeli occupying forces at the Qalandiya checkpoint, and Jihad al-Qadi, a Palestinian journalist, was shot in the abdomen while covering demonstrations outside Ofer prison, near Ramallah. At least 15 Palestinian protesters were injured by rubber-coated bullets while more than 40 other people suffered from tear gas inhalation and others were hit by high-velocity gas canisters and stun grenades in the various demonstrations.

13-24876 (E) 050313

Please recycle

Friday's protests were preceded by other demonstrations throughout the week that were also met with excessive Israeli force. This included a protest on 25 February in which two Palestinian boys, aged 13 and 16, from the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem, were critically wounded by live ammunition, and protests on 28 February, at the Atara checkpoint near Ramallah, the Huwwara checkpoint near Nablus and outside Ofer prison, resulting in several injuries. In this regard, it must be stated that reports have revealed that Israeli occupying forces used a young Palestinian boy as a human shield when they confronted protesters near Ofer prison on 17 February.

In addition to the systematic violence by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population, attacks by Israeli settlers also continue. Among recent incidents, on 25 February, a Palestinian woman in East Jerusalem was attacked by a mob of extremists, in an incident fully documented by witnesses, and on 28 February, Israeli settlers launched yet another raid, attacking a group of Palestinian students in the village of Burin.

At the same time, we recall the continuing plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails. While two of the Palestinian men on long-term hunger strikes, Tareq Qedan and Jafaar Ezzedine, have ended their hunger strikes following decisions that their detention would not be extended, Samer Issawi and Ayman Sharawnah continue their hunger strikes in protest of their unlawful detention without charge. Both men were transferred to hospital on 27 February owing to their deteriorating health. The health of another Palestinian detainee, Muhammad al-Taj, whose hunger strike has exceeded 70 days, is also in critical condition. We reiterate our call for international attention to be paid to the plight of Palestinians in Israeli captivity and demand respect for their human rights and their release.

The number of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel regrettably continues to grow as the occupying Power has persisted with its arrest campaign, including of children and civilians partaking in protests against the occupation. On one day, 27 February, at least 17 Palestinians were arrested in the cities of Al-Khalil, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus and Tulkarem. On 1 March, several Palestinian leaders belonging to the Fatah faction were arrested and interrogated in East Jerusalem. On 28 February, a Palestinian boy under the age of 18 was sentenced to 19 months in prison for alleged stone-throwing in Al-Khalil. Reports confirm that during the month of February alone Israel arrested at least 382 Palestinians, including 10 women.

All these illegal Israeli practices are exacerbating tensions and casting grave doubts on Israel's claims of commitment to achieving a peace that brings an end to this grotesque military occupation and ensures justice and freedom for the Palestinian people and peace and security between Palestine and Israel. While Israel continues to act in total contradiction to these goals, the international community's responsibilities are clear. Serious efforts are required, foremost by the Security Council, to uphold the law and to hold Israel accountable for its violations. The immediate aim must be to diffuse the current volatile situation and to foster a proper environment for advancing, this year, the achievement of the two-State solution, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet's road map, before the viability of that solution is completely destroyed by the occupying Power.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 456 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000

(A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 February 2013 (A/ES-10/583-S/2013/111) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2013/129

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 27 February 2013 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 25 February 2013 (S/2013/113) transmitting the letter dated 12 February 2013 from the Interim President of Mali, Mr. Dioncounda Traoré, on the efforts of the international community to assist Mali, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The Security Council takes note of the reference by the Interim President, in his letter, to the transformation of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali into a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In this context, the Council requests that you include recommendations, for the Council's consideration, on options for establishing a United Nations peacekeeping operation, including the size, mandate and composition of such a United Nations operation, in your forthcoming report on Mali due before 20 March 2013, or earlier, if possible, in accordance with paragraph 24 of Council resolution 2085 (2012), adopted on 20 December 2012.

(*Signed*) **Kim** Sook
President of the Security Council

13-24837 (E) 040313

Please recycle

United Nations S/2013/130

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2013

Original: English

Identical letters dated 4 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to draw your attention to an alarming development in our region.

On 27 February 2013, a tank shell was fired from Syria into the Israeli village of Alonei Habashan for the second time in less than a year. Three days later, on 2 March 2013, three artillery shells landed in Ramot Magshimim.

These attacks represent a violation of the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria, and have the potential to escalate an already tense situation. Israel cannot be expected to stand idle as the lives of its citizens are being put at risk by the Syrian Government's reckless actions.

Israel has shown maximum restraint thus far. I urge the Security Council to address this development immediately, before the situation escalates further.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-24870 (E) 050313

Please recycle

United Nations S/2013/131

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 4 March 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, signed by representatives of 11 countries in the region, the Chairs of the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and myself on 24 February 2013 in Addis Ababa (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-24992 (E) 060313

Please recycle

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region[1]

1. Significant progress has been achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the past decade. The local and regional peace processes initiated at that time laid the foundation for relative peace and stability in large parts of the country. Similarly, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has begun some reforms, with partners' support, that are intended to lay the ground for economic recovery, and the democratization of the country.

2. However, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has continued to suffer from recurring cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, both Congolese and foreign.

3. The consequences of this violence have been nothing short of devastating. Acts of sexual violence and serious violations of human rights are used regularly and almost daily as weapons of war. Displacement figures are among the highest in the world and persistently hover near 2 million people. The implementation of the country's reconstruction, security sector reform and poverty alleviation programme is regularly disrupted.

4. Despite these challenges, the recent crisis has created a window of opportunity to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence. There is increasing recognition that the current path is untenable. Beginning with a cessation of hostilities, concrete action is needed by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the support of partners, countries in the region, and the international community and building on the efforts already under way by the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community.

5. The principles of engagement at each of these levels shall consist of commitments in the following areas:

For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

A renewed commitment:

- To continue, and deepen security sector reform, particularly with respect to the Army and the Police;
- To consolidate State authority, particularly in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including to prevent armed groups from destabilizing neighbouring countries;
- To make progress with regard to decentralization;
- To further economic development, including with respect to the expansion of infrastructure and basic social service delivery;

[1] In this context, region is defined as the signatory countries of the agreement.

- To further structural reform of Government institutions, including financial reform; and
- To further the agenda of reconciliation, tolerance and democratization.

For the region:

A renewed commitment:

- Not to interfere in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries;
- To neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups;
- To respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries;
- To strengthen regional cooperation including deepening economic integration with special consideration for the exploitation of natural resources;
- To respect the legitimate concerns and interests of the neighbouring countries, in particular regarding security matters;
- To neither harbour nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression, or persons falling under the United Nations sanctions regime; and
- To facilitate the administration of justice through judicial cooperation within the region.

For the international community:

- The Security Council would remain seized of the importance of supporting the long-term stability of Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region;
- A renewed commitment by bilateral partners to remain engaged in supporting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, including with appropriate means to ensure long-term sustainability; and to support the implementation of the Protocols and priority projects on the Pact of Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region;
- A renewed commitment to work towards the revitalization of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and support the implementation of its economic development and regional integration agenda;
- A strategic review of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) that aims to strengthen support to the Government to enable it to address security challenges and extend State authority;
- Appointment of a United Nations Special Envoy to support efforts to reach durable solutions in a multitrack plan that allows the convergence of all initiatives in progress.

Oversight mechanisms

6. To promote these principles, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, neighbouring countries, regional partners, and the international community should work in a synchronized manner.

7. A regional oversight mechanism involving these leaders of the region, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia with the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and the Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community in the role of guarantors, shall be established to meet regularly and review progress in the implementation of the regional commitments outlined above, with due regard for the national sovereignty of the States concerned.

8. This 11+4 mechanism is in support of the ongoing regional efforts and shall therefore be supported by and closely linked to the African Union, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community, as well as those of other international partners, including the European Union, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The detailed plan for the implementation of this Framework will be developed jointly including the establishment of benchmarks and appropriate follow-up measures.

9. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall put in place, within the Government, a national oversight mechanism in order to accompany and oversee the implementation of the national commitments for reform outlined above. The United Nations, the African Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other bilateral or multilateral partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are agreed upon shall provide support to this mechanism.

10. The national oversight mechanism will operate in full respect of the national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

11. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) shall be part of the solution, continuing to work closely with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Done at Addis Ababa, on 24 February 2013.

(*Signed*) Joseph **Kabila Kabange**
President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(*Signed*) Parfait Anicet **Mbay**
Second Deputy Prime Minister of the Central African Republic and Minister of Foreign Affairs, for African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad

for François Bozizé
President of the Central African Republic

(*Signed*) Manuel Domingos **Vicente**
Vice-President of Angola

for José Eduardo **dos Santos**
President of Angola

(*Signed*) Denis **Sassou Nguesso**
President of the Congo

(*Signed*) Jacob **Zuma**
President of South Africa

(*Signed*) Edward Kiwanuka **Ssekandi**
Vice-President of Uganda

for Yoweri Kaguta **Museveni**
President of Uganda

(*Signed*) Jakaya Mrisho **Kikwete**
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Witness

(*Signed*) Armando Emílio **Guebuza**
Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community,
Witness

(*Signed*) Laurent **Kavakure**
Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi

for Pierre **Nkurunziza**
President of Burundi

(*Signed*) Paul **Kagame**
President of Rwanda

(*Signed*) Salva **Kiir Mayardit**
President of South Sudan

(*Signed*) Whyinter **Kabimba**
Minister of Justice of Zambia

for Michael Chilufya **Sata**
President of Zambia

(*Signed*) Nkosazana Dlamini **Zuma**
Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
Witness

(*Signed*) Edward Kiwanuka **Ssekandi**
Vice-President of Uganda

for Yoweri Kaguta **Museveni**
Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region,
Witness

United Nations S/2013/132

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 March 2013

Original: English

France, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the situation in Somalia, as well as other relevant Presidential Statements on the situation in Somalia, in particular resolutions 733 (1992), 1425 (2002), 1772 (2007), 2036 (2012), and 2073 (2012),

Reiterating its full support to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, and for their work with the African Union (AU), including the Chairperson of the AU Commission and her Special Representative, as well as other international and regional partners,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, *recognizing* the significant progress that has been made in Somalia over the past year, and *reiterating* its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia,

Commending the contribution of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, *noting* its critical role in improving the security situation in Mogadishu (particularly in the military and policing roles) and other areas of south-central Somalia, including Kismayo, *expressing* its appreciation for the continued commitment of troops, police and equipment to AMISOM by the Governments of Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda, and *recognizing* the significant sacrifices made by AMISOM forces,

Calling on the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of AMISOM and international partners, to consolidate security and establish the rule of law in areas secured by AMISOM and the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, *underlining* the importance of building sustainable, legitimate and representative local governance and security structures in both Mogadishu and areas recovered from Al-Shabaab control, *encouraging* all relevant authorities to uphold high standards in resource management, and *reiterating* the need for rapid and increased United Nations support to the Federal Government of Somalia in these areas,

Underlining the importance of capacity-building of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia and in this regard, *reaffirming* the importance of the re-establishment, training, equipping and retention of Somali security forces, which is vital for the long-term stability and security of Somalia, *expressing* support for

13-25084 (E) 060313

Please recycle

the ongoing European Union Training Mission and other capacity-building programmes, and *emphasizing* the importance of increased coordinated, timely and sustained support from the international community,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of all attacks on Somali institutions, AMISOM, United Nations personnel and facilities, journalists, and the civilian population by armed opposition groups, and foreign fighters, particularly Al-Shabaab, *stressing* that such groups, including foreign fighters engaged in destabilizing Somalia, constitute a continuing terrorist threat to Somalia, the region and the international community, *stressing* that there should be no place for terrorism or violent extremism in Somalia, and *reiterating* its call to all opposition groups to lay down their arms,

Expressing concern at the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Somalia and its impact on the people of Somalia, *commending* the efforts of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations, *condemning* any misuse or obstruction of humanitarian assistance, *underlining* the importance of the full, safe, independent, timely and unimpeded access of all humanitarian actors to all those in need of assistance, and *underlining further* the importance of proper accounting in international humanitarian support,

Recalling its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) on women, peace and security, its resolution 1738 (2006) on the protection of journalists in armed conflicts, and its resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) and 2068 (2012) on children and armed conflict, and *taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, and its conclusions, as endorsed by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict,

Welcoming the Strategic Reviews of both the United Nations and the African Union on their presence and engagement in Somalia, and the decisions taken by both organizations to enhance collaboration on the basis of comparative advantage and a clear division of labour, and *underlining* the importance of both organizations improving their coordination with one another, as well as with the Federal Government of Somalia, other regional organizations, and Member States,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia's development of a new national security strategy, *calling on* the Federal Government of Somalia to accelerate its implementation in view of the remaining threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other destabilizing actors, *underlining* the importance of further defining the composition of Somalia's national security forces, identifying capability gaps in order to guide AMISOM and donors' security sector assistance priorities and signalling areas of cooperation with the international donor community, and *noting* the international community's intention to support the Federal Government of Somalia in security sector reform,

Recognizing that the Federal Government of Somalia has a responsibility to protect its citizens and build its own national security forces, *noting* that these forces should be inclusive and representative of Somalia and act in full compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law,

and *reaffirming* the intent of international partners to support the Federal Government of Somalia in achieving this,

Recognizing that a more stable Somalia is of vital importance to ensuring regional security,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to peace, stability and reconciliation across Somalia, including at the regional level,

Welcoming the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to improving human rights in Somalia, *expressing* its concern at the reports of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, violence against women, children and journalists, arbitrary detention and pervasive sexual violence in camps for internally displaced persons, and *underscoring* the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and to hold accountable those who commit such crimes,

Expressing concern at reports of continuous violations of the Somali and United Nations ban on charcoal exports, *welcoming* the President of Somalia's task force on this issue, and *recognizing* the need to assess urgently, and provide recommendations on, resolving the charcoal issue,

Underlining its full support for the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG), and *recalling* the importance of the SEMG being given full support in carrying out its mandate by all Member States and all appropriate United Nations bodies supporting the Group,

Determining that the situation in Somalia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the charter of the United Nations,

AMISOM

1. *Decides* to authorize the Member States of the African Union (AU) to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 28 February 2014, which shall be authorised to take all necessary measures, in full compliance with its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, to carry out the following tasks:

(a) To maintain a presence in the four sectors set out in the AMISOM Strategic Concept of 5 January 2012, and in those sectors, in coordination with the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups, including receiving, on a transitory basis, defectors, as appropriate, and in coordination with the United Nations, in order to establish conditions for effective and legitimate governance across Somalia;

(b) To support dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia by assisting with the free movement, safe passage and protection of all those involved with the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;

(c) To provide, as appropriate, protection to the Federal Government of Somalia to help them carry out their functions of government, and security for key infrastructure;

(d) To assist, within its capabilities, and in coordination with other parties, with implementation of the Somali national security plans, through training and mentoring of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, including through joint operations;

(e) To contribute, as may be requested and within capabilities, to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

(f) To assist, within its existing civilian capability, the Federal Government of Somalia, in collaboration with the United Nations, to extend state authority in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab;

(g) To protect its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and mission, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel, as well as of United Nations personnel carrying out functions mandated by the Security Council;

2. *Reiterates* its request in paragraph 9 of resolution 2036 (2012) for the establishment without any further delay of a guard force of an appropriate size and within AMISOM's mandated troop levels to provide security, escort and protection services to personnel from the international community, including the United Nations, and *requests* the AU to provide details in its next report to the Security Council on progress towards, and the timetable for, its establishment;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide technical, management and expert advice to the AU in the planning and deployment of AMISOM, through the United Nations Office to the African Union, including on the implementation of the AMISOM Strategic Concept and the AMISOM Concept of Operations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for AMISOM, referred to in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of resolution 2010 (2011), paragraphs 4 and 6 of resolution 2036 (2012) and paragraph 2 of resolution 2073 (2012) for a maximum of 17,731 uniformed personnel until 28 February 2014, ensuring the accountability and transparency of expenditure of the United Nations funds as set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 1910 (2010), and consistent with the requirements of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy;

5. *Reiterates* paragraph 6 of resolution 2036 (2012) and paragraph 2 of resolution 2073 (2012) regarding logistical support to AMISOM;

6. *Recalls* its request in paragraph 5 of resolution 2036 related to transparency and proper accountability for resources provided to AMISOM, in particular the number of troops, civilian personnel and equipment, and *requests* UNSOA, in cooperation with the AU, to verify the number of troops, civilian personnel and equipment deployed as part of AMISOM;

7. *Calls upon* new and existing donors to support AMISOM through the provision of additional funding for troop stipends, equipment, technical assistance, and uncaveated funding for AMISOM to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM, and *calls upon* the AU to consider providing funding to AMISOM through its own assessed costs as it has recently done for the African-led International Support Mission in Mali;

8. *Requests* the AU to keep the Security Council regularly informed on the implementation of AMISOM's mandate through the provision of written reports to the Secretary-General every 90 days after the adoption of this resolution;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by AMISOM in reducing civilian casualties during its operations, and *urges* AMISOM to enhance its efforts to prevent civilian casualties;

10. *Encourages* AMISOM to develop further an effective approach to the protection of civilians, as requested by the AU Peace and Security Council;

11. *Recalls* AMISOM's commitment to establish a Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC), *underlines* the importance of its establishment, *requests* AMISOM to report on the progress made in establishing the CCTARC and *calls on* international donors and partners to further support the establishment of a CCTARC;

12. *Requests* AMISOM to ensure that any detainees in their custody are treated in strict compliance with AMISOM's obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law;

13. *Requests* AMISOM to strengthen child and women's protection in its activities and operations, including through the deployment of a child protection adviser and a women's protection adviser, within its existing civilian component to mainstream child and women's protection within AMISOM;

14. *Requests* AMISOM to take adequate measures to prevent sexual violence, and sexual exploitation and abuse, by applying policies consistent with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of peacekeeping;

15. *Requests* the AU to establish a system to address systematically allegations of misconduct, which includes clear mechanisms for receiving and tracking allegations, as well as for following up with troop-contributing countries on the results of investigations and disciplinary actions taken as applicable, and *requests* the United Nations to advise and provide guidance to the AU in this endeavour;

16. *Welcomes* the development of the Government of Somalia's National Programme for Handling Disengaged Combatants in Somalia, notes the need for appropriate human rights safeguards, and *encourages* Member States to support the plan through the provision of funds;

United Nations Strategic Review

17. *Welcomes* the review by the Secretary-General of the United Nations' presence and engagement in Somalia;

18. *Agrees* with the Secretary-General that UNPOS has fulfilled its mandate and should now be dissolved, and *further agrees* that UNPOS should be replaced by a new expanded Special Political Mission as soon as possible;

19. *Agrees* with the Secretary-General that the conditions in Somalia are not yet appropriate for the deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation, and *requests* that he keeps this under review, including through the setting of benchmarks for when it might be appropriate to deploy a United Nations

peacekeeping operation and *looks forward* to receiving this information as part of his regular reporting to the Security Council;

20. *Decides* that UNSOA shall be integrated within the framework of the new United Nations Mission, with the head of UNSOA continuing to report to the Department of Field Support on the delivery of the AMISOM logistical support package, and reporting to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on logistical support to the new United Nations Mission and on policy or political questions arising from the functions of UNSOA relevant to the mandate of the new United Nations Mission;

21. *Requests* that by 1st January 2014 the post of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) will have been established and structurally integrated into the new United Nations Mission, which will operate alongside AMISOM, *requests* in the meantime that the Secretary-General ensure that, with immediate effect, all appropriate activities of the United Nations Country Team are fully coordinated with the new United Nations Mission, including through joint teams and joint strategies, while ensuring the humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence of humanitarian assistance, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed about the steps he is taking to integrate the work of the United Nations Country Team and the new United Nations Mission, through the provision of written reports every 90 days;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a Technical Assessment Mission on the implementation of the new United Nations mission, in full cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, AU, regional bodies and Member States, on the basis of the guiding principles as set out below:

(a) Empowering Somali ownership of the statebuilding and peacebuilding agenda;

(b) Providing the traditional United Nations good offices function and support to the government, including on reconciliation, elections and the effective implementation of a federal system;

(c) Providing strategic and policy advice on security, stabilisation, peacebuilding and state-building, including through the mission having a substantially strengthened security and rule of law capacity;

(d) Monitoring, reporting and helping build capacity on human rights, including on sexual, gender-based and conflict-related violence and on violations against children — supporting the implementation of the two action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the Federal Government of Somalia;

(e) Supporting the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to manage and specifically coordinate international assistance, particularly on security sector reform;

(f) Providing integrated policy advice and support to the Federal Government of Somalia, in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team, and in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraph 21;

23. *Underlines* that the new mission should be headquartered in Mogadishu and should deploy further across Somalia as security conditions allow, and *requests* advice from the Secretary-General on how the Mission will be protected;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council no later than 19 April 2013 on the results of his Technical Assessment Mission, including on the United Nations division of labour with the AU, after which the Council will formally mandate a new Special Political Mission, and *underlines* that the new United Nations Mission should deploy by 3 June 2013;

Human Rights and Protection of Civilians

25. *Recalls* its previous resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006), and 1894 (2009), as well as all its resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict and peacekeeping, and all relevant statements of its President;

26. *Condemns* all attacks against civilians in Somalia, *calls for* the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including sexual and gender based violence, or abuses committed against civilians, including women and children, and humanitarian personnel in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, *stresses* the responsibility of all parties in Somalia to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate attacks or excessive use of force, and *underscores* the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold those who commit crimes accountable;

27. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the President of Somalia to hold the Somali National Security Forces accountable for allegations of sexual violence, *urges* the Federal Government of Somalia, in cooperation with the United Nations, to initiate its Task Force on Sexual Violence, and to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to sexual violence, and *stresses* the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to take all appropriate measures to bring to justice any perpetrator of such acts;

28. *Expresses* concern at the security situation in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and settlements, *condemns* all human rights violations and abuses, including sexual violence, committed against IDPs by all parties, including armed groups and militias, and *calls for* the strengthening of protection of IDP camps;

29. *Recalls* the relevant prohibition of the forced displacement of civilians in armed conflict, and *stresses* the importance of fully complying with international humanitarian law and other applicable international law in this context;

30. *Recalls* the obligation of the Federal Government of Somalia with respect to the protection of journalists, the prevention of violence against them, and the fight against impunity for perpetrators of such acts;

31. *Reaffirms* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, *stresses* the importance of their participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and *urges* the Federal Government of Somalia to continue to promote increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in Somali institutions;

32. *Strongly condemns* reports of grave violations against children, *urges* the Government of Somalia, as a matter of priority, to implement the action plan signed on 6 August 2012 to eliminate the killing and maiming of children, and the 3 July 2012 action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and *stresses* the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to take appropriate measures to bring to justice any perpetrator of such acts;

Arms Embargo

33. *Decides* that for a period of twelve months from the date of this resolution the measures imposed in paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992), and further elaborated by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425 (2002), shall not apply to deliveries of weapons or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training, intended solely for the development of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and to provide security for the Somali people, except in relation to deliveries of the items set out in the annex to this resolution;

34. *Decides* that weapons or military equipment sold or supplied solely for the development of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia may not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any individual or entity not in the service of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia;

35. *Calls upon* States to exercise vigilance over the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Somalia of items not subject to the measures imposed in paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992) and further elaborated by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425 (2002),

36. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992) and further elaborated by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425 (2002) shall not apply to deliveries of weapons or military equipment or the provision of assistance intended solely for the support of, or use by, AMISOM's strategic partners, operating solely under the African Union Strategic Concept of 5 January 2012, and in cooperation and coordination with AMISOM;

37. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992) and further elaborated upon by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425 (2002) shall not apply to supplies of weapons or military equipment or the provision of assistance, intended solely for the support of or use by United Nations personnel, including the United Nations Political Office for Somalia or its successor mission;

38. *Decides* that the Federal Government of Somalia shall notify the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009), for its information, at least five days in advance, of any deliveries of weapons or military equipment or the provision of assistance intended solely for the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, as permitted in paragraph 33 of this resolution, providing details of such deliveries or assistance and the specific place of delivery in Somalia, *further decides* that the Member State delivering assistance may, in the alternative, make this notification after informing the Federal Government of Somalia that it intends to do so, and *stresses* the importance that such notifications contain all relevant information, including, where applicable, the type and quantity of weapons, ammunitions, military equipment and materiel to be delivered, and the proposed date of delivery;

39. *Requests* the Federal Government of Somalia to report to the Security Council no later than one month after the adoption of this resolution, and every six months thereafter, on:

(a) The structure of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia;

(b) The infrastructure in place to ensure the safe storage, registration, maintenance and distribution of military equipment by the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia;

(c) The procedures and codes of conduct in place for the registration, distribution, use and storage of weapons by the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and on training needs in this regard;

40. *Calls upon* States and regional organizations that have the capacity to do so, to provide assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia to achieve improvements in the areas set out in (b) and (c) of paragraph 39 of this resolution, in full coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia;

41. *Requests* the SEMG to include, in its reporting to the Committee, both an assessment of the progress made in the areas set out in (b) and (c) of paragraph 39, and an assessment of any misappropriation or sale to other groups including militias, in order to assist the Council in any review of the appropriateness of the provisions outlined in paragraph 33 of this resolution, which are for the purpose of building the capacity of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and providing security for the people of Somalia, and *further requests* the Monitoring Group to report on its own ability to monitor delivery of weapons, military equipment and assistance to Somalia;

42. *Decides* to review the effects of paragraphs 33 to 41 of this resolution within twelve months of the date of this resolution;

43. *Decides* that the measures in paragraphs 1, 3, and 7 of resolution 1844 (2008) shall apply to individuals, and that the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7 of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee:

(a) As engaging in, or providing support for, acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Somalia, including acts that threaten the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, or threaten the Federal Government of Somalia or AMISOM by force;

(b) As having acted in violation of the arms embargo imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992), further elaborated upon by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425 (2002), and as amended by paragraphs 33 to 38 of this resolution or as having acted in violation of the arms resale and transfer restrictions set out in paragraph 34 of this resolution;

(c) As obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Somalia;

(d) As being political or military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in Somalia in violation of applicable international law;

(e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in Somalia involving the targeting of civilians including children and women in

situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement;

44. *Underlines* its support for the President of Somalia's task force charged with providing solutions on the issue of charcoal in Somalia, *demands* that all appropriate actors cooperate in full with the task force, and *looks forward* to receiving recommendations and options from the Federal Government of Somalia in this regard;

45. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex

1. Surface to air missiles, including Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS);

2. Guns, howitzers, and cannons with a calibre greater than 12.7 mm, and ammunition and components specially designed for these. (This does not include shoulder fired anti-tank rocket launchers such as RPGs or LAWs, rifle grenades, or grenade launchers.);

3. Mortars with a calibre greater than 82 mm;

4. Anti-tank guided weapons, including Anti-tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) and ammunition and components specially designed for these items;

5. Charges and devices intended for military use containing energetic materials; mines and related materiel;

6. Weapon sights with a night vision capability.